

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3750

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2594

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT GV SL

SUBJ: VISIT GUINEAN DELEGATION TO FREETOWN

REF: CONAKRY 1657

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE ASCERTAIN THAT VISIT OF DIAKITE, CAMARA AND BANGOURA TO FREETOWN TOOK PLACE AUGUST 17. IF SUCH A VISIT OCCURRED IT WAS DONE WITH UNUSUAL SECRECY FOR FREETOWN. STEVENS IS IN COLOMBO AND HAS BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY SINCE AUGUST 11, A FACT THAT MUST BE KNOWN TO TOURE. WE WILL CONTINUE, OF COURSE, TO NOSE AROUND DISCREETLY.

2. A FOUR-MAN GUINEAN DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF BOKE PROVINCE, MAMA TOUNKARA, DID CALL ON ACTING PRESIDENT S.I. DOROMA AND ACTING VICE PRESIDENT KAMARA-TAYLOR ON AUGUST 14. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE DELEGATION DELIVERED A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM SEKOU TOURE. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE WE SUSPECT IT CONCERNED THE ARREST AND EVENTUAL FATE OF DIALLO TELL.

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3. SEVERAL REPUTABLE SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT PRESIDENT

STEVENS WAS SO UPSET BY THE NEWS OF TELLI'S ARREST THAT HE SENT A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO TOURE CAUTIONING THAT TELLI IS AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE AND WOULD HAVE TO BE TREATED LENIENTLY. IF THE VISIT OF DIAKITE, ET.AL. DID TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 17, IT ALSO MAY HAVE INVOLVED TELLI.

4. STEVENS AND TOURE ARE FRIENDLY AND STEVENS MIGHT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO A TOURE REQUEST TO TIGHTEN BORDER CONTROLS ALONG THE SIERRA LEONE-GUINEA BORDER TO DETER ADDITIONAL LARGE NUMBERS OF GUINEANS FROM CROSSING INTO SIERRA LEONE. THIS WOULD BE A POPULAR POLITICAL ACT HERE SINCE SIERRA LEONE IS SWAMPED WITH AN ESTIMATED 400,000 GUINEAN REFUGEES AND ANTI-GUINEAN REFUGEE FEELING IS FAIRLY STRONG. FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW ADDITIONAL CONTROLS WOULD NOT STOP LARGE NUMBERS OF GUINEANS FROM INFILTRATING INTO SIERRA LEONE ALL ALONG THE BORDER. STEVENS IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE ANY SECURITY ELEMENTS TO SUPPORT TOURE ALONG EITHER THE IVORY COAST OR SENEGALESE BORDERS.
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